



Media Advisory



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Governor Granholm and Senator Levin Visit Detroit Arsenal *Tour Fuels Interest in TARDEC as Ground Vehicle Center of Excellence*

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI — Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) toured the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) Friday, Aug. 8, to learn more about the key role that TARDEC plays in national defense and the state's economy.

The two government leaders were especially interested in how to leverage TARDEC's relationships with industry and academia, an issue that was addressed by TACOM Life Cycle Management Command Commanding General MG Scott G. West during the day's initial briefing. A joint presentation was made by West and TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek that further outlined the strategic alignment of the state's economic development plan and the U.S. Army's future-leaning vehicle research and development initiatives.

"TACOM LCMC integrates acquisition and technology," West explained. "Our common mission is to ensure our combat formations are properly equipped. This is where 'support our troops' ceases to be a bumper sticker. This is where the hard work gets done."

Between the two organizations, TACOM and TARDEC currently partner with more than 60 Michigan businesses and more than 20 academic institutions. "We're in a unique position to benefit from our geographical proximity to the automotive industry and Michigan universities with critical expertise in systems engineering, automotive technology and robotics," remarked TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. "This environment provides a phenomenal synergy that leads to better vehicle and weapon systems for our warfighters."

During the tour, the governor and senator visited with TARDEC educational CO-OP students who had their projects on display as part of their end-of-summer wrap-up. Granholm was visibly impressed with the students' work and addressed them with impromptu remarks. "Our strategy here in Michigan is to focus on what strengthens our economy," Granholm told the student gathering. "What you are doing here at TARDEC is exactly Michigan's 'sweet spot.' We want to add jobs so you can stay here and work here. What you are working on is obviously important to the Soldiers, and it's also important for the state. Whatever you choose to do as you go forward, I hope you do it in Michigan."

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.



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The tour included visits to several of the working labs, including TARDEC's fuel cell laboratory, where both the senator and governor engaged in conversation with the researchers about current work in Lithium-Ion battery development and alternative power. They also spoke to engineers in the Engine Generator Test Lab, where Levin pointed out the possibilities for industry to work more closely with TARDEC researchers to leverage the unique testing capabilities that exist within the Detroit Arsenal. At each point of the tour, West highlighted how the technology developed at TARDEC impacts the warfighter, and he introduced the governor and senator to several Soldiers who shared some of their stories with TARDEC's guests.

"It's difficult to show the tremendous scope of our research endeavors in such a short visit," Bochenek remarked. "However, we are very happy to highlight just a select group of our capabilities as the Ground Vehicle Center of Excellence for the Department of Defense. U.S. Army Soldiers depend on TARDEC to ensure that they have the tanks, trucks, heavy equipment and robotic vehicles they need to securely and effectively prosecute their military and humanitarian missions across the globe."

Levin thanked the U.S. Army Soldiers and civilians for their efforts in providing the safest and most capable ground vehicle platforms, combat support weapons and support equipment. "You folks here are phenomenal. Thanks for what you do for the troops every day."

Note: There are two photos that can be used with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photos, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.

Photo Captions

TARDEC-PR-0815_1_Granholm-Levin.jpg

TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek (second from left) discusses current fuel cell research with Gov. Jennifer Granholm (left); Paul Skalny, TARDEC/National Automotive Center Director (center) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) in one of TARDEC's many unique laboratories during their Aug. 8 visit to the Detroit Arsenal. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

TARDEC-PR-0815_2_Granholm-Levin.jpg

TARDEC's MAJ John T. Niemeyer shows Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) a photograph of the Improvised Explosive Device Mine Roller Self



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Protective Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK) in action in Iraq. The SPARK was named one of the Army's 2007 Greatest Inventions. The SPARK provides additional protection to vehicles and crews against pressure-activated improvised explosive devices and mines. (U.S. Army TARDEC photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

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TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military ground systems and automotive technology. A leading technology integrator for the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, located in the heart of the world's automotive capitol. TARDEC is a major element of RDECOM and partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. As a full life-cycle engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons and vehicle systems, TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for the Future Force. TARDEC's technical staff leads research in ground vehicle survivability; mobility/power and energy; robotics and intelligent systems; maneuver support and sustainment; and vehicle electronics and architecture. TARDEC develops and maintains ground vehicles for all U.S. Armed Forces and numerous federal agencies.

For additional information about TARDEC's forthcoming developments and other technologies, please contact Mike Roddin at mike.rodin@us.army.mil.

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